

Message Text

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2261

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0378

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JULY 7, 1977 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 143RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON
JULY 7, CHAIRED BY SOVIET REP (TARASOV), UK REP (BOLLAND)
DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT REPRESENTATION
EMPHASIZED THAT AN OUTCOME BASED ON THE CENTRAL WESTERN
CONCEPTS OF PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY WOULD CONFORM TO
THE AGREED OBJECTIVES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE STATEMENT
CONCLUDED WITH A REITERATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
WESTERN PROPOSALS OF DECEMBER 1975 AND CALLED UPON THE
EAST TO RESPOND TO THOSE PROPOSALS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE
MANNER. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE UK PLENARY STATEMENT,
THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:
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1) TWO CENTRAL FEATURES OF THE WESTERN POSITION--
PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY--PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR ACHIEVING
THE AGREED OBJECTIVE OF CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE STABLE
RELATIONSHIP AND OF STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY IN
A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED
SECURITY.

2) WESTERN PROPOSALS REFLECT THE IMPLICIT NEED TO
FOCUS ON THE FINAL OUTCOME OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMIT-
ATIONS.

3) AN OUTCOME BASED ON PARITY, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED
BY BOTH SIDES IN OTHER ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS, SHOULD
BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE WHILE THE CONVERSE--CONTRACTUALIZED
INFERIORITY--WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ANY PARTY.

4) HOWEVER, THE WEST HAS NEVER PROPOSED THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF PARITY IN ALL TYPES OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS BECAUSE
OF THE CLEARLY UNREALISTIC AND OVERWHELMINGLY COMPLEX
NATURE OF SUCH AN UNDERTAKING.

5) ON THE OTHER HAND, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN
PROPOSAL FOR ACROSS-THE-BOARD ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS WOULD
CONTRACTUALIZE EXISTING EASTERN SUPERIORITIES AND HENCE
WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST BECAUSE OF ITS SEVERELY
DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON WESTERN SECURITY.

6) THE WESTERN APPROACH, BY CONTRAST, CONCENTRATES ON
DEALING WITH THE CRUCIAL, DESTABILIZING GROUND FORCE
DISPARITIES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARITY
IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND THE REDUCTION OF THE
LARGE EASTERN TANK SUPERIORITY.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0378

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

7) IN DECEMBER 1975, THE WEST EXTENDED THE CONCEPT OF PARITY TO THE INCLUSION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER UNDER A COMBINED COMMON CEILING.

8) WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOTED RECENT EASTERN STATEMENTS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST'S PROPOSALS WOULD LEAD TO AN OUTCOME OF APPROXIMATE PARITY, THEREBY SEEMING TO INDICATE THAT THE EAST RECOGNIZES THAT MANPOWER PARITY WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME.

9) NATURALLY, SUCH PARITY WOULD HAVE TO BE GENUINE; THE WEST COULD NOT ACCEPT AN OUTCOME ACHIEVED BY DELIBERATELY IGNORING THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE EASTERN NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER.

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19) NOR COULD THE WEST ACCEPT ANY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENSE SYSTEM OR WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

1) THE WEST HAS PROPOSED AN OUTCOME WHICH REPSECTS THE PRINCIPLES BOTH OF PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY BY PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING.

12) AT THE SAME TIME SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS ON US AND SOVIET FORCES ARE REQUIRED BY THE UNIQUE MILITARY ROLE OF THESE TWO STATES AND BY THE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION OF THE USSR.

13) THE DETERMINATION OF THE WEST TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT WAS CLEARLY MANIFESTED BY THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN OFFER TO REDUCE AND LIMIT SPECIFIED US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS WITHOUT SEEKING ANY ADDITIONAL EASTERN REDUCTIONS IN RETURN.

14) DESPITE EASTERN EFFORTS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM

THIS INITIATIVE BY TABLING A PROPOSAL IN FEBRUARY 1976
EMBODYING NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THE FINAL
OUTCOME AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE EAST, WESTERN
PARTICIPANTS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE WESTERN APPROACH HAS
CREATED THE BASIS FOR AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT AND AGAIN
CALL UPON THE EAST TO PROVIDE A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE
COMMENSURATE WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WEST'S DECEMBER
1975 PROPOSALS.RESOR

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